Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05

L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-01 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

FEA-01 AF-06 ARA-06 NEA-09 /125 W ----- 089762

R 100619Z FEB 75 FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5023 INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS USMISSION GENEVA USMISSION OECD PARIS AMEMBASSY TOKYO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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GENEVA FOR MTN DELEGATION

3.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, AS

SUBJ: MTN: TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

REF: STATE 019287

1. IN ACCORDANCE REFTEL, EMBASSYINCORPORATED ITS SUBSTANCE IN LETTER TO MCKAY, SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF OVERSEAS TRADE, AND USED LETTER AS OCCASION FOR GENRAL REVIEW FEB. 7 WITH FOGARTY, FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF OVERSEAS TRADE, AT WHICH CRAWFORD, CHIEF OF GATT SECTION, ALSO PRESENT.

2. FOGARTY WELCOMED LETTER TO MCKAY, AND INDICATED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOA ALSO HAD BENEFITTED FROM DETAILED BRIEFING ON

U.S. VIEWS RESPECTING MTN DURING OVERSEAS TRADE MINISTER CREAN'S TALKS WITH AMBASSADOR EBERLE RECENTLY IN WASHINGTON. AUSTRALIAN TNC DELEGATION PREVIOUSLY BRIEFED ON CREAN-EBERLE TALKS.

3. FOGARTY AND CRAWFORD INDICATED GOA HAS NO DIFFICULTY WITH U.S. PROPOSALS PARA 2 REFTEL FOR SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY AFTER FEB. 11 TNC MEETING. THEY EMPHASIZED AUSTRALIAN VIEW THAT FORTH-COMING MTN MUST NOT BE PURELY "TARIFF" ROUND AND THAT AGRICULTURAL NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD NOT BE COMPARTMENTALIZED. THEY VOICED AGAIN TRADITIONAL AUSTRALIA CONCERN THAT ANY AUSTRALIAN MOVE ON INDUSTRIAL TARIFFS MUST BE BALANCED BY SUBSTANTIAL BENEFITS FOR AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS. CRAWFORT VOLUNTEERED THAT A RECENT GOA SUTDY SHOUWED LESS THAN 10 PERCENT OF AUSTRALIAN EXPORTS WOULD BENEFIT FROM ACROSS-THE-BOARD INDUSTRIAL TARIFF REDUCTIONS.

4. FOGARTY VOLUNTEERED THAT GOA WAS CONCERNED OVER EFFECT OF CURRENT ADVERSE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, CONTRASTING SHARPLY WITH OPTIMISTIC SITUATION AT TIME OF TOKYO DECLARATION, MIGHT GREATLY DAMPEN WILLINGNESS AND ABILITY OF MAJOR PARTICIPANTS TO ENGAGE IN SIGNIFICANT TARIFF AND TRADE LIBERALIZATION. WHILE HE DOD NOT GO INTO DETAIL RE PRESENT STATE OF GOA THINKING ON CHARACTER OF EVENTUAL OFFERS, HE DOD OBSERVE THAT CURRENT PERIOD WOULD BE PARTICULARLY UNPROPITIOUS TIME TO SEEK CABINET DECISIONS ON SUCH POINTS. WE SPECULATED THAT IN THIS CONTEXT TIMETABLE CONCEIVABLY MIGHT HAVE BENEFICIAL EFFECT BY DEFERRING SOME CRUCIAL TARIFF DECISIONS UNTIL MORE SIGNS OF RECOVERY IN OFFING. HARROP

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TAGS: ETRD, AS, US, GATT, TNC-TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE To: STATE

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